

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:

an ink-jet head that has an ink ejection surface on which a plurality of nozzles are arrayed;

a medium carrier that forms a carrying surface on which a record medium is carried;

a carriage ~~mounted with~~ that mounts the ink-jet head such that the ink ejection surface confronts the carrying surface;

a carriage drive mechanism that includes a plurality of parallel guide rods supporting the carriage and extending across ~~the~~ a direction where the record medium is carried by the medium carrier, the carriage drive mechanism reciprocating the carriage along the guide rods; and

a guide shift mechanism that shifts the plurality of guide rods in a direction where ~~the~~ a gap between the ink ejection surface and the carrying surface ~~varies~~ varies, the guide shift mechanism including:

gears, each gear supporting one of the guide rods at an eccentric position and having a center of rotation at a position different from the eccentric position, a rotation of the gears causing the guide rods to shift; and

a slidable torquer having a rack directly engaged with the gears, and imparting a torque to the gears to rotate the gears.
- 2-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to ~~claim 6,~~ claim 1, wherein the torquer is provided with a knob.

8. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to ~~claim 2,~~
claim 1, wherein each guide rod is supported by ~~a couple two~~ of the ~~rotators~~ gears.

9. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the carriage drive mechanism includes:

pairs of pulleys each having a rotational axis orthogonal to the guide rods, a
~~couple two~~ of the pulleys making up each pair being separated from each other along the
guide rods; and

a plurality of carriage drive belts each wrapped around the pair of pulleys.

10. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:
an ink-jet head that has an ink ejection surface on which a plurality of nozzles
are arrayed;

a medium carrier that forms a carrying surface on which a record medium is
carried;

a carriage that holds the ink-jet head such that the ink ejection surface
confronts the carrying surface; and

a guide shift mechanism that includes a pair of parallel guide rods ~~that support~~
supporting the carriage, a pair of gears that support each supporting one end of one of the
guide rods at an eccentric positions, position, a pair of eccentric cams that is each disposed at
the other end of one of the guide rods and ~~that have~~ having the same ~~dimeters~~ diameter as
~~those that~~ of the gears, and a slidable torquer having a racks that engage rack directly engaged
respectively with a the pair of the gears that support the one end of the pair of guide rods,
gears, and imparting a torque to the gears to rotate the gears, the racks slidable in a direction
~~where the gears rotate, wherein~~

~~sliding of the racks causes rotation of the gears so that the pair of guide rods is~~
shifted to thereby adjust the gap between the ink ejection surface and the carrying surface.